

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

**What is claimed is:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A molded plastics material sample vessel comprising a tubular portion which has a maximum external cross sectional width of 5 millimeters (mm) and an internal sample volume of not more than 100 microliters ( $\mu$ l) wherein the tubular portion comprises a tubular external wall with a thickness of from 0.01 to 2 mm and wherein the tubular portion:

- = has a truncated conical external surface, the angle between a meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from 0.2 degrees to 8 degrees,
- = is closed at its narrower end, and
- = is open at its wider end.

15-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The molded plastics material sample vessel according to claim 14, further comprising a section of frustoconical shape directly or indirectly adjoining the tubular portion, which section increases in external diameter in the direction away from the tubular portion.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The molded plastics material sample vessel as claimed in claim 14 further comprising a neck portion that includes a cylindrical portion for receiving a closure means.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A molded plastics material sample vessel which comprises a tubular portion having a maximum external cross sectional width of 3 millimeters (mm) and an internal sample volume of not more than 100 microliters ( $\mu$ l), wherein the tubular portion comprises a tubular external wall with a thickness in the range of from 0.1mm to 0.5mm, and wherein the tubular portion:

- a) has a truncated conical external surface, the angle between a meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from ~~0.1~~ 0.2 degrees to ~~+0~~ 8 degrees,
- b) is closed at its narrower end, and
- c) is open at its wider end, and

wherein the mean internal cross sectional width of the cavity of the tubular portion is in the range of from 0.5mm to 3mm, wherein the sample tube further comprises a section of frustoconical shape directly or indirectly adjoining the tubular portion, which section increases in external and internal diameter in the direction away from the tubular portion, and wherein the sample vessel is made of a cyclo-olefin copolymer of ethylene and norbornene.

29. (New) The molded plastics material sample vessel as claimed in claim 28, wherein the angle between the meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from 1 degree to 3 degrees.

30. (New) The molded plastics material sample vessel as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cyclo-olefin copolymer of ethylene and norbornene has a melt flow index of at least 20.